

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00614 312255Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 OIC-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05

/090 W

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R 302240Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2918

UNCLAS PANAMA 0614

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OAS, PN

SUBJ: INTER-AMERICAN SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE  
INTERNATIONAL LAW-MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES

REF: STATE 017058

1. AT FINAL PLENARY MEETING PANAMA INTRODUCED RESOLUTION  
WHEREBY CONFERENCE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONVOKE  
A SPECIALIZED INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON MULTINATIONAL  
ENTERPRISES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING PROVISIONS FOR THEIR  
REGULATION. MEXICO BEGAN THE DEBATE BY REFERRING TO THE WASHINGTON  
MEETING IN JANUARY AND INDICATING THAT SINCE THE MATTER WAS  
BEING STUDIED IN THE OAS SYSTEM THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A  
RESOLUTION. THE US AND GUATEMALA SUPPORTED THE MEXICAN POSITION.  
ELDREDGE OF PERU THEN TOOK FLOOR TO INDICATE THAT HE WAS NOT  
PRESSING THE PROPOSAL HE HAD INTRODUCED PREVIOUSLY BUT WOULD  
SUPPORT THE PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION. AT THIS POINT PANAMA MOVED  
FOR A RECESS.

2. FOLLOWING INFORMAL EXCHANGES OF VIEWS THE MEETING WAS  
RESUMED AND THE ORIGINAL PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION ABANDONED.  
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 00614 312255Z

(IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO SECURE THE NECESSARY ELEVEN

NOTED.)

3. A NEW RESOLUTION WAS THEN OFFERED WHEREBY THE CONFERENCE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IT INCLUDE THE SUBJECT OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE SECOND SPECIALIZED CONFERENCE ON PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE VOTE WAS LOST BY A VOTE OF 8 FOR, 3 AGAINST, WITH 8 ABSTENTIONS. (RECORD OF VOTE IN MINUTES BEING HAND CARRIED TO WASHINGTON BY DEL).

4. DELEGATIONS WERE OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD AT THIS POINT. HONDURAS EXPRESSED REGRET AT THE FAILURE TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION IN PARA 3 AND PANAMA NOTED ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE LATIN-AMERICAN VIEW EXPRESSED AT THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES. THE FINAL SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE PLENARY THEN ADJOURNED AT 5:00 A.M.

5. COMMENT: IN THE DELEGATION'S VIEW THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE CONFERENCE'S DECLINING TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS WERE (A) THE FEELING OF MANY DELEGATIONS THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO INTRODUCE THIS POLITICAL DIMENSION IN THE FINAL HOURS OF A CONFERENCE THAT HAD BEEN CONCERNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY WITH TECHNICAL MATTERS AND (B) THE REALIZATION THAT OTHER FORA WERE MORE SUITABLE FOR WORKING ON THE SUBJECT.  
JORDEN

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